

Colorado River Water Quality Improvement Program

LOCATION: This project is located in the Colorado River Basin upstream of Imperial Dam in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada in the Lower Colorado Region.

DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION: The purpose of this program is to develop a comprehensive, cost-effective program for water quality improvement and salinity control in the Colorado River Basin in cooperation with the Basin States and other Federal agencies.

The Colorado River is the major source of water for the southwestern United States and the Republic of Mexico. Salinity and other contaminants cause about \$750 million per year in damages to domestic, industrial, and agricultural users. The Federal government is involved in the program because of its vast ownership of saline lands in the Basin and their contribution to the salinity and other contaminants found in the River. Reclamation leads the program because most of the cost-effective opportunities to control salinity and other contaminants involve improvements in irrigation efficiency and water conservation. Prevention (which typically costs \$50-\$70 per ton) is much more cost-effective than treating water after the salt and related contaminants enter the river system (at a cost of about \$400-\$600 per ton).

AUTHORIZATION: P.L. 93-320, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, June 24, 1974; P.L. 98-569, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act Amendment, October 30, 1984; and P.L. 104-298, Water Desalination Act, August 1, 1996.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

Program Financial Data

Activity	FY 2001	FY 2002
Water and Energy Management and Development	\$150,000	\$150,000
Total Program	\$150,000	\$150,000
Prior Year Funds	0	0
Enacted	\$150,000	\$150,000
Underfinancing	(10,000)	0
Total Reclamation Allotment	\$140,000	\$150,000

Investigation Costs: Initiation: FY 1972 Completion: Ongoing

	Total Estimated Cost	Total to 9/30/00	FY 2001	FY 2002	Balance to Complete
Reclamation	\$9,465,000	\$8,032,113	\$140,000	\$150,000	\$1,142,887
Non-Federal	198,808	198,808	0	0	0
Total	\$9,663,808	\$8,230,921	\$140,000	\$150,000	\$1,142,887

WORK PROPOSED FOR FY 2002:

Water and Energy Management and Development - Continues Las Vegas Wash, Palo Verde Irrigation and Drainage District and Colorado River monitoring of salinity levels and other contaminants

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for impacts on water quality in the Colorado River; program verification, monitoring, evaluation, and coordination activities; salinity model support; and program coordination. Continues to support the Clean Water Action Plan for water quality investigation and coordination activities. **\$150,000**

Reclamation Request **\$150,000**